

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MOVES OUT OF QUEBEC

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, A CBC TELEVISION PROGRAM REPORTED THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FIGURES FOR 1977, NOT YET RELEASED, SHOW THAT EMIGRATION FROM QUEBEC INCREASED MARKEDLY. FIGURES ARE BASED ON REQUESTS WHICH FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE RECEIVES FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHECKS. NET LOSS FOR QUEBEC DURING YEAR WAS PLACED AT ABOUT 50,000 PEOPLE, IN UPPER RANGE OF ESTIMATE MADE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER JEAN CHRETEN, WHO USED HEALTH AND WELFARE STATISTICS FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1977. (REPORTED MONTREAL 423)

2. ACCORDING TO CBC, FEDERAL FIGURES SHOW THAT 97,000 PEOPLE MOVED FROM QUEBEC TO OTHER PROVINCES IN 1977. FIGURES FOR 1977 COMPARES WITH TOTALS OF 52,151 IN 1976 AND 46,797 IN 1975. AS BACKGROUND, CBC SAID THAT FEDERAL FIGURES SHOWED THAT MOVES TO OTHER PROVINCES AVERAGED 47,680 FROM 1961 TO 1966, AND THEN BEGAN TO MOVE UP, REACHING 73,811 IN 1970, A PERIOD THAT COINCIDED WITH EARLIER POLITICAL TENSIONS IN QUEBEC. TREND WAS THEN DOWN, UNCLASSIFIED

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UNTIL RECENT SHARP TURN-AROUND. QUARTERLY BREAKDOWN FOR 1977 RELATIVE TO COMPARABLE PERIOD YEAR EARLIER SHOWS THAT OUTFLOWS INCREASED BY 16 PERCENT IN FIRST QUARTER AND BY 35 PERCENT, 65 PERCENT AND 172 PERCENT IN LAST THREE QUARTERS.

3. FIGURES ON MOVES TO QUEBEC SHOW THAT 27,452 CANADIANS MOVED TO QUEBEC IN 1977. FIGURES COMPARES WITH TOTAL OF 33,452 IN 1976 AND

ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 40,672 DURING PERIOD BETWEEN 1961 AND 1971.
WITH IMMIGRATION FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES APPROXIMATING 20,000,
TOTAL LOSS FOR QUEBEC DURING 1977 WAS PLACED AT ABOUT 50,000
PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET CORROBO-
RATED FINAL FIGURES USED BY CBC, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TREND THEY
PORTRAY IS ACCURATE. DATA FROM OTHER SOURCES SUGGEST SAME
TREND. FIGURES FROM CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MOVERS INDICATE
A SHARP INCREASE IN NET MOVES OUT OF QUEBEC DURING 1977.
INDUSTRIAL MOVES OUT OF THE PROVINCE ARE REPORTED TO BE UP BY
ABOUT 75 PERCENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR. SIMILARLY, DEMAND FOR
TELEPHONES HAS DECLINED IN QUEBEC. BELL CANADA REPORTED THAT
REQUESTS FOR RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONES IN MONTREAL FELL BY 50 PERCENT
DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1977 AND DEMAND FOR BUSINESS
TELEPHONES OVER THE SAME PERIOD FELL BY 75 PERCENT. INCREASE IN
LONG DISTANCE CALLS -- WHICH NORMALLY PARALLEL ECONOMIC GROWTH --
WAS SAID TO BE LOWEST IN 10 YEARS IN QUEBEC.

5. NOT SURPRISINGLY, YOUNG ANGLPHONES APPEAR PARTICULARLY
RESTLESS. A SURVEY BY RESEARCH DIVISION OF ALLIED JEWISH
COMMUNITY SERVICES OF 1,343 STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND
CEGEP LEVEL IN QUEBEC SHOWED THAT 37 PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS PLANNED
TO LEAVE QUEBEC ONCE THEY FINISHED THEIR EDUCATION AND THAT
ANOTHER 19 PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED. A SIMILAR STUDY CARRIED OUT BY
SOCIOLOGIST AT BISHOP UNIVERSITY AND AIMED AT ENGLISH HIGH
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SCHOOLS SHOWED THAT 31 PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM
ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOLS IN 1971 HAD LEFT QUEBEC BY 1976. FINALLY,
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FEDERAL FIGURES ON MOVEMENT OUT OF QUEBEC FOR
1977 DO NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO EMIGRATED TO US OR OTHER COUNTRIES.
NET LOSS, IF FOREIGN EMIGRATION WAS INCLUDED, WOULD THEREFORE BE
EVEN HIGHER. WHILE OUR RECORDS DO NOT PERMIT A PRECISE TABULATION,
WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT SOME 5000 RESIDENTS OF QUEBEC RECEIVED
IMMIGRANT VISAS FROM CONSULATE LAST YEAR.
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